



D'OH! **HOMER GETS A VATICAN** SHOUT-OUT (page 11)

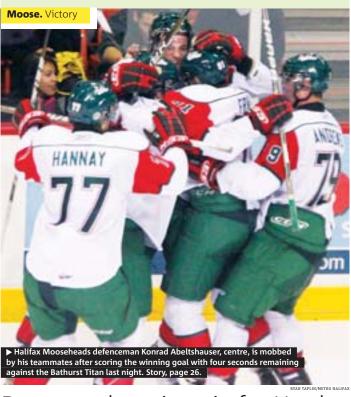




Wednesday, October 20, 2010 www.metronews.ca







Down-to-the-wire win for Herd

The Mooseheads won the game 3-2 at the Metro Centre to give team owner Bobby Smith a victory in his debut behind the bench. Halifax is back in action Friday at home against Cape Breton.

on Quinpool

But establishments can't serve drinks after midnight (page 3)

God, what an awful racket

How to survive a GWAR concert (maybe) {page 15}

Province's centre ask slammed

• Request to control negotiation with developer draws ire from councillors, mayor • 'Surprises' in provincial ask mean no financial info. decision until Nov. 9: CAO

The province only wants an "equal partnership" when it comes to funding the proposed downtown convention centre, Halifax regional councillors said yester-

Council had its first look at the provincial government's conditions for funding the proposed \$159-million facility yesterday afternoon. The ask has the province taking over as the sole negotiator with developer Rank Inc., as well as a property tax exemption for the new trade centre.

That didn't sit well with a number of councillors. "We don't jump because the province says 'frog," said Coun. Steve Streatch. "The ask, as presented in front of us today, is unacceptable."

Some took issue with being asked to be equal partners in funding the trade centre, but having the province take over negotiations. Others were concerned losing property taxes on the building, estimated at \$1.2-million annually in a Gardner Pinfold report.

Coun. Stephen Adams went as far as accusing the NDP Darrell Dexter government of attempting to sabotage the

"What they want, in my opinion, is to look like they're supporting something, and trying to appease everybody, and saying 'look, it's HRM's fault, we were all behind this." COUN. STEPHEN ADAMS

Others were more understanding.

"All that's really happened is we're disappointed in the first stage of the negotiations," said Coun. Bill Karsten. "This is the first kick at the can. That's what negotiation is.'

Yesterday was the opening gambit in what looks to be a lively round of discussions between the province and HRM on the question of the convention centre. Municipal staff will review the financial implications of the trade centre project and report back to council for a vote on Nov. 9.

Dexter and Infrastructure Minister Bill Estabrooks were both unavailable for comment yesterday.

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Soldier gets new trial in shooting

A Glace Bay reservist convicted of fatally shooting a close friend in Afghanistan in 2007 has won his appeal on charges of criminal negligence causing death and negligent performance of a military duty.

In its order issued Monday, the Court Martial Appeal Court of Canada set aside Cpl. Matthew Wilcox's guilty verdict and ordered a new general court martial on the two charges.

Wilcox was found not guilty of the most serious charge of manslaughter.

The ruling also stated the new trial will be presided over by a judge other than military judge Maj. Peter Lamont, who presided over and sentenced Wilcox to four years in a federal prison during the court martial, which ran for nine weeks over the summer last year.

Wilcox's lawyers filed an appeal after the sentence



was handed down on Sept. 30, 2009, arguing the makeup of the military jury was unfair and that its members should have been permitted to view the scene of the shooting at Kandahar Airfield.

Cpl. Kevin Megeney, 25, of Stellarton, died on an operating table in Kandahar after Wilcox fired a bullet through his chest March 6, 2007. Based on several soldiers' testimony, Lamont said he was satisfied Wilcox and Megeney "were engaged in a consensual game of quick draw" inside the tent they shared.

During the sentencing

hearing, the judge said Wilcox violated the trust of his colleagues with his pattern of "negligent behaviour" in Afghanistan by failing to unload his weapon at the main gate to Kandahar Airfield.

Wilcox, 25, was released from the Springhill penitentiary Dec. 7, 2009, pending appeal, and has been living with his parents in Glace Bay under court-imposed conditions.

CAPE BRETON POST



On the web at metronews.ca



How the Chile miner rescue set the gold standard for staging a disaster relief spectacle. More at metronews.ca/ spindoctor



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Get ready for some Quinpool lounging

• But rules will apply to how late drinks can flow at lounges



Restaurant owners on Quinpool Road can now apply to feature lounges in their establishment.

Halifax regional council voted unanimously last night to change zoning law to allow for lounges on the street. Restaurant owners are still required to apply for a lounge licence, and each will be examined on a case-by-case basis by Peninsula Community Council.

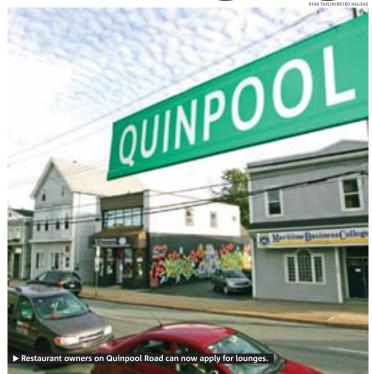
In addition, the lounges must account for less than 50 per cent on the establishment, and drinks may not be served after midnight.

At a public hearing last night, Karla Nicholson, the general manager of the Quinpool Road Mainstreet District Association, said businesses on the busy street need lounges to compete with other downtown business.

"There is no desire to open cabarets, nobody on the street wants VLTs or loud music. All of the business owners I've talked to ... do not wish to upset the residents because we all know that the residents are our bread and butter."

KARLA NICHOLSON, QUINPOOL ROAD MAINSTREET DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

"It is simply a matter to wanting to compete on the same playing field as every other restaurant in the city," she said. "It's my job to bring business to Quinpool Road. But I have, on occasion, taken colleagues ... away from Quinpool Road because we couldn't just go for a glass of wine."



N.S. speaker's office searched

The Speaker of the Nova Scotia legislature says the RCMP executed a search warrant at his office in July as part of its investigation into the expense claims of politicians.

Charlie Parker says police requested four files and they were copied and handed over by his office when investigators presented the warrant.

Parker says police have

Investigation

The Mounties are investigating files relating to five former members and one current member of the legislature.

The investigation was

indicated that their investigation would be wrapped up by the fall. So far, offilaunched in May after auditor general Jacques Lapointe forwarded the files, saying he had uncovered during his probe of constituency expense claims what he described as possible illegal acts.

cers have not released the results of their investigation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

Heat rebate available

PROGRAM. The province is again offering rebates to low-income residents to help them pay their heating bills.

Rebates worth up to \$200 are available, and the program requires an application.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Only one guilty plea

CORRECTION. O'Regan's Chevrolet Cadillac Ltd. pleaded guilty to only one charge under the Occupational Health and Safety Act in relation to an explosion that killed an employee in 2008. Incorrect information appeared in yesterday's edition.



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Extradited man may undergo psychiatric test

• Glen Race extradited from U.S. to face charges in two murders • Crown to request moving trial to Halifax

The lawyer for a Halifax man who was extradited from the United States to face two murder charges says he's expecting his client will have to undergo a mental assessment.

Glen Race will be arraigned today in Bridgewater provincial court on first-degree murder in the deaths of Michael Knott and Trevor Brewster more than three years ago.

Knott's body was found on a wooded path in southwestern Nova Scotia on May 5, 2007. Four days later, Brewster's body was found under a boardwalk at a lake in Halifax.

Race's lawyer, Joel Pink, says he expects that psychiatrists will be asked to determine whether Race who has been diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia — understands the proceedings before him.

"I will need to leave that up to the doctors," Pink said in an interview yesterday. "I think he will have to go for a (mental) fitness hearing."

Race was returned to Canada on Friday from the U.S., where he has been serving a life sentence for the May 10, 2007, murder of Darcy Manor, of Mooers, NY

Race's mother, Donna, said she's hopeful the court proceedings will assist the families of Knott and Brew-

"It's about finding closure for the other families, who are in our prayers and thoughts continuously," she said. She said she and her husband will attend the hearings and hope to

visit their son. "We want the best for our son, and we want to be sure he's going to be in good hands ... We do love him and support him."

When Race went to court for his U.S. trial, he sometimes appeared di-shevelled, disoriented and at times had a spit guard wrapped around

Pink says when he visited Race on Sunday he was impressed by the improvement in his client's appearance, saying he looks like "a clean cut young man."

A spokeswoman for the province's Public Prosecution Service says Race will be returned to the U.S. to serve his sentence when the Canadian proceedings are over.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Halifax ranked 89th in business friendliness

The good news is Halifax beat Truro. But the bad news is they're both at the bottom of the heap of business-friendly cities.

The Canadian Federation of Independent Business ranked 100 municipalities of a population of at least 25,000 according to 12 indi-cators including the number of start-ups, a survey of CFIB members, and local government business poli-

Halifax placed 89th out of 100. Moncton placed the best in Atlantic Canada at 22nd. "There has been lots of buzz around Moncton lately," said CFIB spokeswoman Leanne Hachey.

"They have been very aggressive in attracting busi-nesses and investment in their community."

Recent examples include big sporting events and concerts pouring into "As the largest city in the region, we do believe that Halifax should be the leader in business growth and attracting businesses to locate here in our capital city." LEANNE HACHEY, CFIB ATLANTIC VICE-PRESIDENT

Moncton. "Those things don't necessarily mean it's great to start a business there, but those actions say to the business community our municipality wants to be buzzing and where the action is.'

HRM Mayor Peter Kelly defended the municipality's track record and said 24 acres near the new Larry Uteck interchange was just

Rankings

- 1. Grande Prairie, Alta.
- 22. Moncton, N.B. 26. Charlottetown, P.E.I.
- 35. Saint John, N.B.
- **36.** St. John's, N.L.
- **42.** Fredricton, N.B. **60.** Kentville
- 72. New Glasgow 85. Cape Breton
- 89. Halifax
- 90. Truro

secured by a "commercial

"So if you look at our numbers, we have this year alone over half a billion dollars worth of permits that have already been applied for and I would challenge you to compare those numbers anywhere across the country," he said.

JENNIFER TAPLIN WITH FILES FROM ALEX BOUTILIER

Four males sought in laundromat robberv

Halifax Regional Police are looking for four teenage males who they say robbed a Dartmouth laundromat on Monday

night.
Police just before 10 p.m., the four males entered Aqua Fresh Laundromat at 172 Wyse Rd. and demanded cash after pushing the clerk behind the counter.

One of the males took an unknown amount of cash, police say, then the four left the store on foot.

Police say during the robbery, two of the teenagers were wearing ski masks.

METRO HALIFAX

Court appearance put off until November

Steven Elliot Laffin's court appearance has been put off until November.

The Dartmouth man is facing charges of kidnapping, forcible confinement, aggravated sexual assault and uttering death threats. The charges relate to an incident in August when a woman told police she escaped from the trunk of a car by a man who allegedly tied her up and sexually assaulted her. Yesterday Laffin's lawyer, appearing in court without his client, asked to put off a plea until Nov. 22 because of technical difficulties with videotaped evidence. • METRO HALIFAX

Sales down, prices up in real estate market

Real estate activity in HRM is dipping and house prices are increasing. Yesterday the Nova Scotia Association of Realtors released their statistics of residential sales and listings. This fall activity was down 20.1 per cent in Halifax and Dartmouth compared to the same period last year. But Royal LePage released their House Price Survey and it shows Halifax saw increases across all three housing types in the third quarter. Detached bungalows increased by 7.2 per cent, standard two-storevs increased 5.5 per cent and condo prices went up 4.3 per cent. • METRO HALIFAX

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Police search through dirt after fatal shooting

▶ Forensic identification officers were back at the Mulgrave Park murder scene yesterday ♪ No indication what specifically they were looking for

A team of forensic identification officers sifted through dirt outside a Halifax murder scene yesterday.

A large patch of grass was cut out near the sidewalk in front of a housing complex in Mulgrave Park yesterday.

Donald Jermaine Stevenson, 21, was killed on Saturday night when a man in a skull mask walked into the family home and shot Stevenson in front of two relatives.

Public appeal

 Const. Brian Palmeter said police are still asking for people with information to contact them.

Yesterday police were back at the scene using large screens and a metal detector to search through dirt

"Based on the information we have, they felt it was necessary to go and do a little digging to see if there was other evidence that was overlooked or missed," he said.

Several women sat in front of a house nearby and watched the police at work yesterday afternoon.

It the second murder in three months in this community and police consider them unrelated. Ryan Matthew White, also 21, was killed in July.

"In both cases, we believe the victims were the intended targets," Palmeter said. • JENNIFER TAPLIN

COURT

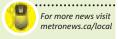
Serial drunk driver to appeal sentence

A habitual drunk driver will be in court in January appealing his latest sentence for being impaired behind the wheel.

Terry Naugle, a 52year-old from the Truro area, was handed one of the stiffest prison sentences in Nova Scotia for impaired driving last February — eight-and-ahalf years for slamming his car into an SUV carrying David and Julia McMillan of Tatamagouche, and their daughter Jill.

Naugle was banned from driving when the incident happened and had racked up 22 previous convictions for impaired driving.

impaired driving.
The appeal will be heard in Halifax on Jan.
26. METRO HALIFAX



Crackdown on loud partying

Town officials in Antigonish are crediting the RCMP and their bylaw enforcement officer for putting a lid on noisy parties and dealing with rowdy university students.

During homecoming weekend alone, the RCMP placed 30 people in cells and issued 22 tickets under the Liquor Control Act. A local councillor says they are now seeing fewer complaints.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Police, board probe alleged taping incide

• Mother says she wants justice and written apologies to herself and daughter

Police and school board officials in Cape Breton are investigating an alleged incident involving a staff member taping a student to a chair at an elementary school.

Laurie Pinhorn said her daughter Samantha, a Grade 1 student at Greenfield Elementary School in Scotchtown, recently told her a teacher's aide taped her to a chair during class.

Pinhorn said the incident happened a couple weeks ago but she first heard about it a few days ago from other parents.

'When I found out, I felt like a hot poker was stuck in my stomach, I



was so distraught I almost threw up," she said. "I was that upset, I was

going down to that school with a roll of tape myself to tape that teacher's aide to a chair, then ask how it feels to be humiliated in front of all the children.'

Pinhorn met with principal Joyce Morrison on Friday.

"The principal is trying to tell me the teacher's aide was joking around," Pinhorn said.

"I told the principal I don't even chain my dog up. As far as I am concerned what they did is cruelty.'

Morrison confirmed she met with Pinhorn but declined to into go specifics.

CAPE BRETON POST

Wind plan to be made. used in province

Nova Scotia Power and Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering have agreed to build and use made-in Nova Scotia wind towers and blades across the province.

Premier Darrell Dexter says his government has signed a letter of intent that provides the opportunity for Daewoo to supply wind turbine components for up to 100 megawatts of capacity over the next four years. The Nova Scotia government is a partner with Daewoo to build a wind turbine plant at the former TrentonWorks railcar factory.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dal design

Dalhousie University's Uday Venkatadri will lead the research into design, production and manufacturing of wind turbine towers and blades, it was announced vesterday.

News in brief



Halifax to go Green

APPEARANCE. Funnyman Tom Green is coming to

The popular Canadian comic will perform at the Casino Nova Scotia's The Schooner Room on Thursday, Nov. 25 at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 and \$45 plus and go on sale Friday at 9 a.m. through Ticket Atlantic. METRO HALIFAX

Bedford pipe complete

CONSTRUCTION. Heritage Gas Ltd. announced yesterday it has completed its natural gas pipeline

construction to Bedford. The \$17 million expansion adds 30 kilometres of new pipeline and provides natural gas to Fairview, Clayton Park, Bayer's Lake and Bedford. METRO HALIFAX

Rec centre trashed

VANDALISM. Police are looking for the public's help after the Hubbards Recreational Centre was trashed during a recent break and enter. Halifax RCMP say sometime overnight on Oct. 15, picnic tables were torched and the suspects damaged the walls. METRO HALIFAX

Smokes, cash stolen

ROBBERY. Police say \$1,400 worth of cigarettes was stolen from a pizzeria in Head of Chezzetcook late last week. Halifax RCMP say the break and enter was at Toulany's Pizza during the overnight hours of Oct. 14. METRO HALIFAX

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Court hears ugly details of colonel's crimes

▶ Videos of two killings were not shown in court▶ Instead, Crown read out detailed account of attacks

Warning: Graphic details may disturb some readers.

Whether his victims fought him off or complied with every perverted command he gave them, convicted sex killer Col. Russell Williams showed no mercy to the two women who begged for their lives before he brutally murdered them, court heard yesterday.

heard yesterday.
Williams, 47, sat silent,
his head bowed low as the
Crown laid out the gruesome final hours of Cpl.
Marie-France Comeau and
Jessica Lloyd — every moment recorded with photographs and videotape.

Comeau fought him until the end — even as she



struggled, bloody and weak, against the duct tape he put over her mouth and the rope that he used to bind her hands behind her back.

His next victim, 27-yearold Lloyd, did everything Williams asked of her in an

Heavy security

 More than a dozen officers guarded the eastern Ontario courtroom where the hearing is being held.

effort not to "upset" him, the Crown said.

Williams broke into her Belleville home in January, tied her up and raped her repeatedly for hours.

Lloyd was so terrified she apologized when she failed to move into the sexual position Williams demanded. She even asked permission to lower her legs after he had raped her. It had no effect.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



France's youth show outrage

Masked youths clashed with police and set fires in cities across France yesterday as protests against a proposed hike in the retirement age took an increasingly radical turn. Hundreds of flights were cancelled, long lines formed at gas stations and train service in many regions was cut in half.



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Militants attack parliament in Chechnya, kill 6

• Attack follows a bombing in the Moscow subway in March and a car bombing last month in a Vladikavkaz

insurgents tacked Chechnya's parliament yesterday in a brazen suicide raid that left six people dead and 17 wounded, defying Kremlin claims of stability in the volatile southern region.

In a clear challenge to Moscow, the raid occurred just as Russia's interior minister was visiting the provincial capital Grozny.

three attackers The drove to the tightly guarded parliament complex and got inside. One militant blew himself up at the doors and another two ran into the building shouting "Allahu akbar!" -"God is great!" in Arabic — as they



opened fire on the people inside, said a Chechen police spokesman.

The regional prosecutor's office said the remaining two attackers also blew themselves up after exchanging fire with police, while other officials said they were killed in a gunbattle.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Enjoying the Stillness

ر کر Today's photo of the day is by Canadian Val Chirkov and was submitted in the Favourite Spot category. The photo is titled Stillness. Enter your photos today and view more pictures at metrophotochallenge.ca.



Costly crime agenda

Don Head, commissioner Correctional Service Canada, says he will have to hire thousands more staff, as well as expand existing prisons to handle the extra 4,478 inmates that will be the result of the Conservatives' crime legislation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

\$2 billion
The commissioner

says he'll need to spend about \$2 billion to deal with the influx of prisoners.

Pollutants harming ecosystems: Report

A multi-year study by the federal government has produced a troubling report card on Canada's ma-

There are vanishing species, warming ocean temperatures and a flood of contaminants, according to the document from the federal fisheries department.

The report was released, without fanfare, this sum-

The information surfaces as Canada joins delegates from more than 190 countries in Japan for the two-week-long UN biodiversity conference.

Countries are expected to negotiate new targets to protect the world's ecosystems and save species from extinction

One biodiversity expert says the report card is a reminder of how Canada has failed to live up to the UN's modest 2002 goal of reducing species loss.

Dalhousie University's Jeff Hutchings says Canada has seen dramatic biodiversity decline in recent

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister sandwich comment

The arrival of KFC's 540calorie Double Down sandwich caught the attention of the Ontario government vesterday, which first promised to review the sale of the sodium-laden, breadless concoction, but then quickly backtracked.

Health Promotion Minister Margarett Best had two positions on the Double Down in as many hours.

When first asked about the Double Down, Best



said it was something the government could investigate.

However, her office later issued a statement in which Best claimed to "reiterate" that there were no plans to review the availability of any food products in Ontario.

"Consumers have the right to choose the food they wish to purchase." said the updated statement. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Quebec passes controversial law

Quebec Liberals have successfully pushed through Bill 115, the controversial language law, after more than 20 hours of emergency debate in the legislature

Just after 7 a.m. yesterday, the ruling Liberals used their majority in the Quebec national assembly to adopt the bill, which sets out who qualifies to attend English public school in the province.

Under Bill 115, children who attend English private schools would accumulate points over at

three years to least qualify for English public school.

Québécois lan-Parti guage critic, Pierre Curzi, said the law creates a twotier system, where people with money can buy their way into the English public school system.

Brent Tyler said Quebec is throwing up new road-blocks for children who want to go to English-language schools by setting up an elaborate point system to gauge each child's eligibility.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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Google found not so street smart

Privacy commissioner says Google violated Canadians' privacy rights • Collected personal info by mistake

Millions of Canadians search the web every day, but the country's privacy commissioner says their favourite search engine was doing too much research into them.

Jennifer Stoddart says Google broke Canadian privacy laws when it accidentally collected personal information from unsecured wireless networks while putting together its Street View mapping service.

An investigation by Stoddart's office found emails, addresses, usernames and passwords. Even a list with names of people with certain medical conditions was collected.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Privacy concerns

In April, privacy commissioner Jennifer Stoddart led a group of 10 privacy regulators who wrote to Google concerned about its approach to privacy

- Street View lets users get crystal-clear pictures of homes and sometimes faces and licence plates.
- Stoddart said Google needed clearer controls around new product launches and enhanced privacy training.
- Spanish data regulators said Monday they are filing a lawsuit against Google for the Wi-Fi mapping incident.



Beijing bombshell

China shook global markets yesterday with its unexpected increase of interest rates, but the surprise was compounded by the size of the move. The increase was 25 basis points, the first time in modern history that Beijing adjusted deposit and lending levels by a number that was not a multiple of nine.

Canadian home prices cooling

Increases in Canadian home prices are moderating as the market cools from overheated levels of earlier this year, says one of the country's largest real estate companies. A Royal LePage survey

published yesterday said housing prices weakened in the third quarter in most major markets, coming off unseasonably strong sales in the first half of the year when low interest rates helped stimulate a rush to market. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"The year is unfolding much as we

predicted, with the unusually active first half of 2010 giving way to

slower markets." PHIL SOPER, ROYAL LEPAGE

PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Apple shares fall

Wall Street's bar was so high for Apple Inc. that the fact that it sold more iPads than Macs in the latest quarter wasn't enough to impress investors.

Shares fell nearly six per cent after the release of results Monday, even though Apple reported record net income and revenue as iPhone sales nearly doubled from a

\$20.3BApple's jumped 67 per cent to \$20.3 billion, from \$12.2 billion last year.

year ago. Apple's gross margin — a measure of its profitability — was better than its own guidance, but Wall Street was expecting even better.

"I think expectations got a little out of hand," Kaufman Bros. analyst Shaw Wu said in an interview. The associated press

MINING INSPECTIONS

U.S. finds **hundreds** of safety

Federal inspectors issued nearly 600 citations for safety violations found at 30 problem mining operations across the United States in September, the Mine Safety and Health Administration said yester-

day.

The violations turned up during an inspection blitz begun after the deaths of 29 miners at Massey Energy Co.'s Up-per Big Branch mine in

West Virginia on April 5. Four other Massey mines were among 30 around the country that

MSHA selected for extra inspections in Septem-Inspectors found the

violations during inspections targeting 30 troubled mining operations in 15 states stretching from Connecticut to California and Florida to

"We are beginning to see signs of improve-ment at some mines, an indication that these iminspections are making a difference," MSHA director Joe Main

"Some continue to violate standards and place miners at risk." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Luxury jets developing cost hefty

Bombardier plans to spend more than \$1 billion to develop two new luxury business jets, more than double what some in the industry had expected.

The price tag includes capital expenditures to potentially expand existing facilities, although a manufacturing plan hasn't been completed.

Steve Ridolfi, president of Bombardier Business Aircraft, said the high program cost reflects the fact that the existing Global Express planes have undergone some major changes for the luxury jet



Analysts had expected Bombardier's plans would cost about \$400 million US to \$500 million US.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's domestic economy slowing

The Conference Board has lowered its forecast for Canada's growth next year, saying domestic spending has cooled and the U.S. economy has weakened

The Ottawa-based forecaster says it now expects the Canadian gross domestic product will increase by 2.5 per cent in 2011 over this year — four percentage points lower than its previous prediction in the

NOVA SCOTIA

summer. It estimates 2010 as a whole will show three per cent growth over last year, when Canada's GDP shrank due to a severe global economic slowdown.

The Conference Board says that Canada's domestic economy is losing steam and the country's growth will rely on the U.S. and global economies. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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THERE REALLY SHOULD BE AN APP FOR THAT



It's now an article of faith after numerous studies prove it to be so — that texting, talking and even listening on your cellphone while driving is even more dangerous than driving while drunk.

hat, of course, doesn't prevent people from texting, talking or listening while driving, even when it's illegal: OMG! I'm gonna crash. It's enough to make you get out and walk. But lately it occurs to me that is no solution. Walking has become just as dangerous as driving as the streets are populated by the same idiots distracted drivers who somehow manage to park their cars

without incident.

Everywhere you go, and I mean everywhere, the Text Menace is right in front of you, brow furrowed, thumbs going a mile a

minute, jacked into headphones, completely oblivious to what's going on around them — or in front of them.

How many times todav were vou forced to swerve to avoid some vision in Ugg boots who

couldn't wait to tell her BFF that she's just across the street, so Wait for Me!

And if you think that's bad, did you know you can get an iPhone app called Type and Walk which makes it possible for you to, well, type and walk at the same time without running into

anything or anyone. That means you never have to look up. Or say you're sorry. Or thank-you. Or hello, or any of that other, like, outmoded human interac-

"Everywhere you

go, and I mean

everywhere, the

Text Menace is

right in front of

you ..."

tion stuff.

I guess Type and Walk is a good thing, especially if you have a tendency to walk off the curb into an oncoming bus, but would it not be simple just to turn your phone off for

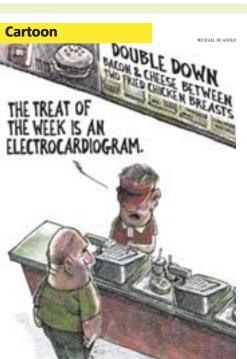
the three minutes it takes to get from here to there?

I think it's time to consider a ban on cellphones altogether. In case you haven't noticed, 'smart" phone zombies are everywhere, holding the line up at Tim Hortons as they talk to their friends while trying to select 30 different Timbits. Or they're in the elevator telling people they're in the elevator, as in: "I'm in the elevator." Or in a stall in a public washroom.

Some people don't think it's a good idea to ban cellphones, even if you're heading down the freeway 40 kilometres over the limit. Rush Limbaugh, for example, thinks the whole idea is a commie plot: "Liberalism, social-ism, communism is responsible for more deaths than cellphones could ever hope to be." But consider the source. I would bet listening to Rush Limbaugh lose his mind in public is more dangerous than texting and drinking combined. LOL.



Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying



BlackBerry aiming low?

Worth mentioning

MONTREAL. While Apple CEO Steve Jobs brags that iPhone smartphone sales have pulled ahead of RIM's BlackBerrys, analysts say Research In Motion is aiming at a different, more international marketplace.

"It could have a viable future as a growth company that really focuses on affordable smartphones, affordable messaging devices," MKM Partners analyst Tero Kuittinen said from New York.

'The fate of Research In Motion really hinges on how well they now do in Asia, Latin America and

the Middle East."
Apple said Monday that



iPhones outsold BlackBerrys by two million units in the quarter, but Kuittinen said that's like comparing a BMW luxury vehicle with a mid-market Honda.

"Apple is targeting very sophisticated consumers who demand cutting-edge technology and are really interested in expensive data plans," he said.

BMO Capital Markets analyst Tim Long also said

RIM is best positioned to benefit from smartphone growth in emerging markets over the next few years. He noted that most emerging markets don't offer subsidies for smartphones buyers and it would cost consumers in those markets more money to operate an iPhone than a lower-end, basic BlackBerry.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

How early is too early for a toque?

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Metro Minute at a curbside giveaway

Looking to get rid of some or what others may find as hidden treasures? Then read on.

The Halifax Regional Municipality announced yesterday that as part of Waste Reduction Week, the second Curbside Give Away Weekend is taking place this Saturday and Sunday. By simply putting a "Free" sign on items you

are looking to part ways with, people can come by and pick up the items.

If your items aren't picked up by Sunday night, HRM asks you take them back inside.

Some items brought out to the curb for the first curbside weekend included CDs, DVDs, furniture and small appliances.

METRO HALIFAX





Vatican declares Homer a Catholic

The Simpsons' producer says the television program clearly shows Homer is not Catholic
 It's the latest example of the Vatican's efforts to be more relevant to younger generations

The Vatican newspaper has declared that Homer Simpson is part of the Pope's flock — a claim that leaves The Simpsons TV producer baffled.

"Few people know it and he does everything to hide it but it is true: Homer J. Simpson is Catholic," L'Osservatore Romano wrote in its weekend edition.

Last December, the newspaper praised the show on its 20th anniversary for its philosophical leanings and irreverent take on religion.

The weekend story was the latest example of the Vatican paper's efforts to be more relevant in the past few years.

It follows stories not

It follows stories not only lauding Harry Potter but even praising the Beatles and waxing philosophical about John Lennon's boast that the British band was more popular than Jesus.

The paper quoted an analysis by a Jesuit priest, the Rev. Francesco Occhetta, discussing Homer and Bart's conversion in a 2005 episode after meeting with a sympathetic priest, Father Sean, voiced by actor Liam Neeson.

Osservatore says the analysis shows that behind the TV program's jokes are

"My first reaction is shock and awe, and I guess it makes up for me not going to church for 20 years."

AL JEAN, EXECUTIVE PRODUCER

themes "linked to the sense and quality of life."

"The Simpsons' remain among the few programs for children in which the Christian faith, religion and the question of God are recurring themes," it said. "The family recites prayers together before meals and, in its own way, believes in heaven."

While noting that The Simpsons often takes jabs at religious figures, it said parents should not be afraid to let their children watch "the adventures of the little guys in yellow."

But the show's producer told Entertainment Weekly the Vatican may have gone a step too far in its analysis of the satire, noting that Homer and Bart only consider converting in the 2005 episode.

Jean noted that the Simpson family attends the First Church of Springfield, "which is decidedly Presbylutheran."

"We've pretty clearly

shown that Homer is not Catholic," he told the entertainment website. "I really don't think he could go without eating meat on Fridays for even an hour."

Fridays for even an hour."
But L'Osservatore would
seem to take that in stride,

too.

"Skeptical realism seems to prevail in the Simpson stories," it wrote.

"Young generations of television watchers are educated to not let themselves be fooled. The moral? None. But one knows that a world without easy illusions is a more human world and, perhaps, more Christian."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





It'll be a Glee-ful celebration at the Gemini Awards next month.

Cory Monteith, who stars in the hit TV series, has been announced as host of the Geminis, which celebrate the best in Canadian television.

The show takes place in Toronto on Nov. 13.

The cop show Flashpoint is among the main contenders at the event, with 15 nominations.

The Geminis are celebrating their

25th anniversary.
Monteith, who
plays Finn Hudson
on Glee, was born in
Calgary and raised in
Vancouver.



TV legend returns to join the Working Class

Ed Asner to play crotchety neighbour in first scripted CMT sitcom

Television veteran Ed Asner is coming back to series TV with the first scripted sitcom for CMT.

On the new show, Working Class, Asner will co-star as the crusty but lovable neighbour to the

blue-collar single mom played by series star Melissa Peterman.

The network announced Monday that the 12-episode multi-camera comedy will premiere in January on CMT.

Asner, who turns 81 next month, is beloved for his signature role as cranky journalist Lou Grant. His return to TV follows recent successes for two fellow castmates from the legendary Mary Tyler

Moore Show: Betty White on TV Land's Hot in Cleveland and Cloris Leachman on Fox's Raising Hope.

Peterman has appeared on the sitcom Reba and hosts CMT's The Singing



We paid for our Caribbean cruise with our TD Points (even the excursions).





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When Too Many is just the right amount

Benefit for autism backed by comedian Jon Stewart among others

Comedy Central hopes it's got the winning number for Night of Too Many Stars: An Overbooked Concert for Autism Education.

The network's third such biennial benefit originates from two coasts and will be prerecorded as well

Airing Thursday at 9 p.m. EDT, the broadcast will consist of a gala concert taped earlier this month at New York's Beacon Theatre, along with live cut-ins from Los Angeles, where a star-studded phone bank will receive viewers' contributions during the show.

Rob Corddry, Bryan Cranston, Jimmy Kimmel, Jim Parsons, Sofia Vergara and Rainn Wilson are among the celebrities booked to take calls in Los

Angeles from donors. Jon Stewart will be hosting. Meanwhile, the New York shindig will boast names such as Steve Carell, Stephen Colbert, Tina Fey, Sarah Silverman,

Jimmy Fallon, Tracy Morgan, Joel McHale, Jim Gaffigan, John Oliver, Ricky Gervais, Lewis Black, Chris Rock and Triumph the Insult Comic Dog. Surely way too many!

Hosting this portion, too, of the overbooked affair: Who else but Jon Stewart?

Night of Too Many Stars comes packed with laughs, of course. But its underlying purpose is no joke, as Stewart wastes no time reminding everyone.

After greeting the audience with a bedbug joke, he turns serious, stating that one of every 110 kids is diagnosed as autistic.

"Tonight isn't about curing autism or fighting it," he says. "Tonight is about helping people that live with it now.'

The event arose from ne difficulty Robert the Smigel had in finding his con Daniel, who has son Daniel, who autism, the right educational resources. He and Daniel's mother started their own school a few

years ago.
Smigel, perhaps best known for his wisecracking canine hand puppet, Triumph, is held in great affection among the comic mafia. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

My TD Points covered my stay at a ski resort (even my ski lessons).





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Two more axed from **Battle of** The Blades

Violetta Afanasieve and P.I. Stock have been eliminated from the Battle of the

Katia Gordeeva and Valeri Bure were in the bottom two but will remain for another week.

The winning pair earns \$100,000 for the charity of their choice.

Battle of the Blades airs live performance shows Sundays and live results shows Mondays on CBC-

The six pairs returning to compete next Sunday are: Shae-Lynn Bourne and Patrice Brisebois, Isabelle Brasseur and Todd Warriner, Gordeeva and Bure, Kyoko Ina and Kelly Chase, Jamie Sale and Theo Fleury THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBC gives green light to three shows

NBC is giving three freshmen series, including The Event, a full-season pickup.

Besides the much-hyped thriller The Event, the network gave a vote of confidence Monday to Law & Order: Los Angeles and the sitcom Outsourced.

None of the series has posted stellar ratings in a season in which new shows have struggled to attract viewers.

But NBC noted that The Event and the Los Angelesset Law & Order have improved ratings in their time slots, while Out-sourced is doing well with advertiser-favoured young adult viewers. The net-work finished in the fourth spot last season.

TV picks Save the verv

last Dance

REALITY It's the final performance episode on So You Think You Can Dance Canada before Sunday's season finale. Four hopefuls are vying for the coveted title. (CTV)

CANADIAN PRESS

Howie helps salute stars

AWARDS Howie Mandel hosts the Canada's Walk of Fame special in Toronto tonight, honouring some of Canada's biggest and brightest. This year's inductees include singersongwriter Nelly Furtado, actor Eric McCormack, David Clayton-Thomas and acclaimed author Farlev Mowat (Global) CANADIAN PRESS

A Gibson cameo for Hangover 2

Mel Gibson will make a cameo in The Hangover 2 as a tattoo artist.

Gibson's role, which was first reported by the

New York Post, was confirmed Tuesday by a person close to the production, who requested anonymity because he

wasn't authorized to comment publicly on the matter. The film, a sequel to the 2009 hit comedy The

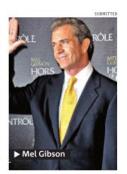
production, with a release scheduled for May 2011.

Warner Bros., which is distributing the film, declined to comment.

Gibson might be hoping some comedy improves his tarnished reputation: A memorable appearance in the first Hangover film helped rehabilitate Mike Tyson's image.

Authorities are investigating claims by Gibson's ex-girlfriend Oksana Grigorieva that the 54-year-old actor-director physically abused her. Audio purportedly of Gibson making a series of racist and misogynistic rants was leaked earlier this year.

Though shooting on the film was completed in 2009, no release date has been announced. The Hangover 2 follows the characters on a trip to Southeast Asia for a wedding. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



We paid for a weekend getaway in Vegas with our TD Points (even the Grand Canyon helicopter tour).





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A toast to famous, fearless femmes

▶ Elle magazine celebrates female achievement in film • "Women run Hollywood," says actor Harrison Ford

They are Oscar winners and nominees, actors, directors and producers. And the honourees of Elle magazine's 17th annual Women in Hollywood celebration say they have women to thank for it.

Jodie Foster, Diane Keaton, Gwyneth Paltrow, Kate Hudson, Sofia Coppola, Hilary Swank, Kerry Washington, Diane Kruger and newcomer Jessica Chastain, who were recognized Monday night for their achievements in film, said they were inspired by other actresses and female filmmakers.

Foster, who knew at age 6 she wanted to be a director, looked to European filmmakers Lina Wertmuller and Margarethe von Trotta.

"I thought, well, if they could do it, an American can do it, too," she said.



Meanwhile, Oscar-winning director Kathryn Bigelow called Foster "a national treasure," and Alyson Hannigan said Foster inspired her to become an actress.

"I've always loved her,"

Hannigan said, "So if I get to meet her tonight, like, I might pass out."

Kruger, Swank and ac-

tress Viola Davis all named Meryl Streep as one of their acting heroes. For Washington, it's Annette Bening. For Coppola, it's Anjelica Huston. Hudson and Paltrow each said their actress moms were inspirations.

With all the love in the room, director-producer Adam Shankman, who hosted the event at the Four Seasons Hotel, concluded that "being a woman in Hollywood totally rocks."

Harrison Ford speculated that the event "came to be back in the days when they said, 'There were no good parts for women' and 'Women aren't highly regarded.'"

Now, he said, "Women run Hollywood. Absolutely run Hollywood. And I'm glad."

Though significant

gains have been made, honourees and presenters said they're still fighting for parity.

"There needs to be more focus on great stories, great roles for women that are just as powerful as they are with men, filled with duality, where we're all not always nice and sexless after 40 and humourless after 40," Davis said. "I think there are some amazing women out there"

Foster said it might seem quaint to celebrate women "when they really are half of what's going on in the film business."

Keaton said it's up to women to work together to tell their stories.

"We're bound together by the inexplicable wonder by being what?" she said. "Just women."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

We paid for a weekend getaway to New York with our TD Points (even the sightseeing tour).





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'If she can do it, so can I': Levi to The View

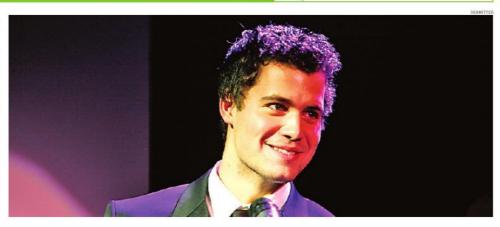
Levi Johnston says there are really no qualifications to hold the job that Sarah Palin once held, which is that of mayor of Wasilla, Alaska

Johnston, the father of Palin's grandson, was grilled on The View Monday about his mayoral ambitions. In August, Johnston's manager confirmed Johnston's plans to run for the office as part of a reality TV show and insisted he was serious about the move.

Johnston said the only real qualification is to live in the city limits for a year before the election.

He believes he's as qualified as any other candidate, saying he believes it's important to listen to the people and their concerns.

Johnston said he has no platform, which drew groans from the roundtable. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



New record in works

Avett Brothers vow to stay on their toes as album takes shape

The Avett Brothers' breakthrough album, I and Love and You, came out on Sept. 29, 2009, exactly one year before our interview with singer and multi-instrumentalist Scott Avett.

So what's the band doing to celebrate the anniversary?
"I guess," says Avett, up-

on quick reflection, "making another record, right?"

The band is not quite ready for the studio though. They just released in-concert collection

called "Live, Volume 3" last week, which clearly demonstrates how much growth can happen on the stage for this band.

The songs from their 2009 album have matured especially well thanks to their year on the road. And the band - which also includes Scott's brother Seth on vocals, guitar and piano as well as bassist and singer Bob Crawford agrees that they like to know how a song works in the live setting before they

commit it to disc.

"We've got a ton of songs that we'd love to record, but I think there's a lot to be said for being content and figuring out how to sit back and let those songs become what they will and develop naturally," he says.

"They start to breathe and nuances happen. Great accidents happen, and the songs really dictate what they'll become. You've just got to play

I and Love and You was produced by Rick Rubin and not entirely road-tested when they went into record with him. Avett says that this really worked for the album, but they want to do the next one differently.

"I and Love and You was a big learning experience and a big change for us in the way we recorded it. We gave up some control intentionally, and we were proud to do so," he says..
"We wanted to step out



of our comfort zone, and we did. And we're kind of coming back to it, to take chances on stage - and

stage that you don't really know is how you get to develop them." • METRO

I paid for my hotel with TD Points

(even the room service).



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Singer not Weary Kind

Bingham claims new album inspired by cars, not Crazy Heart character

Ryan Bingham's latest album, Junky Star, seems in-spired by Jeff Bridges' Crazy Heart character Bad Blake, an alcoholic former country music superstar on his way down and out.

Not so, says Bingham, the 29-year-old singer-songwriter responsible for the film's Golden Globe and Oscar-winning song, The Weary Kind.

"I was thinking of when you're looking through a junkyard and among all the trashed cars you find a really special cool car. But I

like to leave it vague and open to interpretation," he explains.

Junky Star does have a definable link to Crazy Heart, though.

The film's soundtrack producer, the 10-time Grammy-winning T-Bone Burnett, who co-wrote The Weary Kind, helmed this set of bristling barroom rock and aching raw ballads.

Even so, it was business as usual for Bingham and his band. Dead Horses

"He didn't tell us to do

anything. He just got us all in the studio with all these amazing guitars and cool old amps and we played around, trying different guitar sounds.'

"We tracked the whole record in three days. I don't want to say it was easy, but it was that smooth."

Like Bad Blake, Ryan Bingham and the Dead Horses' music is more outlaw country than mainstream Nashville pop.

The more revved-up songs of Junky Star sit easi-

ly with the likes of the rockabilly-based tunes of early Kings of Leon, before the stylists came on board and cut into their hick

."I could see that," agrees Bingham, sounding more polite than convinced.

Then there's his raspy voice, which is as ragged and emphatic as Tom Waits. "I'd be nothing but honored to be mentioned alongside Tom Waits," he says humbly. "He's amazing." • METRO

I paid for a last-minute flight to Paris with my TD Points (even the airport taxes).





Lesson learned

Whatever you Like singer tells radio station he's through with crime as judge orders him off to prison

learned his final lesson after a federal judge ordered him back to prison for 11 months.

A federal judge in Atlanta ruled last week that the Grammy-winning rap artist, whose real name is Clifford Harris Jr., must return to prison for violating

the terms of his supervised release on federal weapons charges. He was arrested in California last month on suspicion of drug posses-

T.I. told radio station V103-FM in Atlanta on Monday that he's learned by trial and error after learned his final lesson.

T.I. gave the interview to V103 alongside a 24-yearold man who had recently threatened to kill himself by leaping from a downtown building.
Police said the man

agreed to come down if he could meet with T.I.



A Gwar survival guide

If you're up for a night of fake bile and body parts, here are a few tips for making the most of a Gwar gig



Boots i

one of our shows is probably to just not go," warns Oderus Urungus, frontthing for heavy metal space mutants Gwar, the self-proclaimed, "most titanic, apocalyptic, loudest, smelliest and disgusting rock 'n' roll band in history."

For the uninitiated, a Gwar gig is something unto itself.

The quintet sports rubber monster costumes and wields foam swords, rocking out whilst soaking audiences in fake blood, bile and body parts culled from various pop/political effigies desecrated via a number of disgusting means such as flaying and hacking off limbs.

Moreover, Gwar prides itself on 25 years and 12 albums — the latest

Show listings

- Halifax: Oct. 20, The New Palace
- Toronto: Oct. 23, Opera House
- Vancouver: Nov. 29, Commodore Ballroom
- Edmonton: Dec. 1, Edmonton Events Centre
- Calgary: Dec. 2, MacEwan
 Hall Ballroom

dubbed Bloody Pit Of Horror (Metal Blade) — while fans are protectively ravenous freaks.

Intrigued but intimidated? Follow this simple guide to surviving these disgusting but entirely comedic and tongue-incheek spectacles.

What To Wear

It all depends on your desired outcome. Want to be a target for mayhem?

Wear something crisply white and head for centre stage. With their endless dousing of carnage, you're sure to come out making Regan MacNeil from The Exorcist look like the "after" side of a detergent commercial.

What To Bring

A healthy sense of humour (political incorrectness is a plus for reasons we can't divulge), a strong stomach and a change of clothes. And earplugs.

What Not To Say

How many times you've seen them. At least not to the band, as Urungus takes it as an affront, thinking the band kills the entire crowd nightly.

crowd nightly.

When fans claim attending multiple shows he cries, "How the hell did that happen? I thought we killed everybody."



Alternately, avoid comparing Gwar to other costumed rock bands (Lordi, Mushroomhead or even KISS) to fans. That might get you impaled for real.

What To Do

Again, it hinges on your intended experience. Step up front for an interactive en-

counter including stage diving, moshing, curseladen taunting from Urungus and refreshing gore sprayed constantly.

For the voyeur, stay well back and enjoy the massacre of various papiermâché creations.

Finally, Urungus advises that the best course of

action at a Gwar gig is to "hide underneath the corpses of your dead friends.

"Smear yourself with their blood and other various body fluids that are leaking out of them," he says. "Then you might be able to escape with your





Bieber's mom feels shut out

O Source says she's talking to a lawyer about Justin's autobiography

Pattie Mallette, mother of teen sensation Justin Bieber, is worried she's being cut out of her sons successful career, according to Radar Online.

Her worries started when she found out about Bieber's forthcoming autobiography.

"No one in Justin's camp told her or consulted her," a source says. "She found out about it by reading it in the press."

While devoted to her son, Mallette is reportedly mulling her options. "She's in a tough position," the source says. "She feels that she's being cut out of her son's business life by the people around him. She doesn't know what to do. It was a big step for her to finally go out and look for a lawyer for herself." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Celebrity tweets



JIM CAR-REY [@JIMCAR-REYl Friday night in NYC.

A giant aching mass of impulse and apatite speeding toward the dawn again! You're a wild one!

LADY GAGA



fect Manhatperfect guy. Love you

Giuseppe am



[Ataylorswift13] At dinner with my family, engaged in a heated argument — debating our theories on who

'You're So Vain' is about.

Taylor

I paid for my all-inclusive vacation with TD Points (even the jet-ski rentals).





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Talking points

Aguilera finds support

BLAME. Christina Aguilera reportedly blames husband Jordan Bratman for the collapse of their marriage, according to Page Six.

She feels that he held her back when she wanted to focus more on her career," a source says. Meanwhile, Aguilera has reportedly been turning to Lindsay Lohan's ex-girlfriend, Samantha Ronson, for emotional support, though sources deny rumours the two are hooking up.

They've known each other forever and they're good friends," a source savs. "Samantha was in Mexico with Christina for Nicole [Richie]'s bachelorette party." METRO

Gaga ready to settle down?

COMMITMENT. Things are getting serious enough between Lady Gaga and boyfriend Luc Carl that

the pair reportedly marriage," a source says. "They both took part in a 'spiritual commitdressed up and ment ceremony, said beautiful handwritten vows according to They then Grazia magazine. "It exchanged rings was their in a spiritual first step service and drank shots towards before sitting down to a lovely private dinner at a

restaurant." And the ceremony was just the beginning, according to the source: "They wanted to show that they are committed to each other and want to spend the rest of their lives together. They are still planning to marry, but that will come later when she has the time to plan a big Italian-style wedding."

METRO

Elton was asked to be Idol judge

OFFER. Elton John says he

turned down an offer to be a new judge on American Idol.

"I don't want to be on television. It's become boring, arse-paralyzingly brain crippling," he tells Radio Times magazine.

He also questions how much reality shows prepare singers for a real ca-

"TV vaults you to superstardom and then you have to back it up, which is hard," he says.

"Susan Boyle was an endearing phenomenon, but I fear she might not understand the rigors of show business.'

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I paid for a resort in paradise with TD Points (even the scuba lessons).





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Comedian, actor and author Judah Friedlander

'ime travel is the secret

Judah Friedlander, who plays a staff writer on NBC's 30 Rock, knew he had a gift, but it wasn't for entertaining - it was for martial arts. The stand-up comedian and actor decided to share

his hard-fighting acumen with his new book, How to Beat Up Anybody. We talked with the mas-

ter about his work. Here's a tip: don't take anything in this article as truth.

How did you become a world champion of karate?

Well. I'm not a world

champion, I am the world champion. I won it. It's the most coveted trophy in all of sports and martial arts. I first won it back in the '80s but I'm still undefeated.

And with this book, this is the first time I'm showing the general public my techniques so that everyone can stay safe.

Does your expertise come from your innate abilities or do you attribute it to years of hard training?

That's an excellent question. It's a mix. I have a natural gift, and I've worked on it.

I first learned martial arts when I was 13. I was in federal prison in China for a crime I didn't commit and I learned from the inmates

You have a section on how a woman can defend herself and even dress the part to illustrate it. How did it feel to be in a woman's shoes?

Well, I've been there before. Everything in this book is real. There's not staged photograph and to prepare for this book, in 1983, I went back in time to 1975, got a sex change and lived as woman for two years in Istanbul I was abused this was before I was the world champion. I did that so I can learn because I want to give back. I want to learn what it's like for a woman to defend herself, so I actually did.

Acting Up

Judah Friedlander on keeping karate skills sharp while working for 30 Rock.

"When I'm taking a break from beating people up and winning trophies, I'll head over to 30 Rock. I'm actually only there for security purposes. And you know, every once in a while, they'll give me some lines. It's just something to mix the day up. When I'm taking a break from beating people up and winning trophies, I'll head over to "30 Rock" do a few lines, bring some sexiness to the show.."



• Follow these celebrity vacationers to their fave hot spots—all places that'll meet your needs for surf, sand and warm temperatures



THE BAHAMAS

For twosomes who are like ships that pass in the night because of jam-packed schedules and are desperately in need of pampering time together.

Poster couple

John Travolta and wife Kelly Preston make time for intimate getaways at places like the ultraposh resort, Atlantis, in the Bahamas. With more than 2,000 rooms, the resort might not be intimate but even these stars can get lost in the crowd.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

For twosomes who rank styrofoam, George W. Bush and SUVs high among the environmental evils of the world.

Poster couple

Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie like to keep it real in the DR. They stroll the streets and hang with the locals, before hiding away at an exclusive resort, like the Punta Cana Resort & Club.

The sugary-white beaches of the Dominican Republic are why most people head there, but its best-kept secret is its ecofriendly side.

Hike through unspoiled mangrove swamps and mountains with cascading waterfalls.



BARBADOS

For let's just do it twosomes who can't get the vacuum cleaner out of the front-hall closet because it's jammed with baseball gloves, golf clubs, yoga mats and last year's darttourney trophy.

Poster couple

David and Victoria Beckham flaunt their rippled bodies on the beach at celebrity-magnet Sandy Lane, the island's most exclusive, and expensive, resort. When they're not

frolicking in the waves, they lounge in their ocean-view suite, far away from the unwashed masses seeking autographs.



MEXICO'S MAYAN RIVIERA

For hipster couples who like to follow the crowd on the road to what's hot and happening.

Poster couple

Tom Cruise has always been one to be on top on the latest trend. He kicked off the global obsession with aliens with War of the Worlds and snagged himself a young wife (a popular Hollywood tradition) in the form of Katie Holmes.

He also knows a good thing: He booked a romantic getaway with his beloved at the Maroma Resort and Spa, a nearly \$5,000-a-night sweet spot in the Mayan Riviera.



MICHELE SPONAGLE

GRENADA

For twosomes who love facing challenges and adversity head-on and want a trip to a place with strong conviction and spirit.

Poster couple

Will Smith and Jada Pinkett Smith, Heidi Klum and Seal. Both of these couples share things in common: It's the second time around for both, and these twosomes have vacationed on the spice island. Sure, they could've given up on finding love again and taken a vow of chastity, but they licked their wounds. found fresh amore and hooked-up for a sequel marriage.







A new rollercoaster and a tropical fish venue are coming to two Florida theme parks owned by SeaWorld Parks. Park officials announced last week that the roller coaster Cheetah Hunt is coming to Bush Gardens Tampa, while Grand Reef will open at Discovery Cove in Orlando THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



useum as another sign o fading showmanship



Any truth to hotel ratings?

• How to know what ratings really mean and which ones to trust • Don't get taken in by fake rating systems



When you put confidence into a nice vacation once a year, you want your money's worth in hotel or resort quality. So when you're spending all those hours toiling away on travel websites or talking with an agent, how much does the star rating mean in your decision?

Mahmood Tejpar, a manager at Marlin Travel in Calgary, rates hotels and resorts usually from two to five stars. The differences, he says, are in terms of amenities.

"The higher the star, the more facilities like spas, bistros, discotheques, more pools, more restaurants," he says.

Staff service, food quality and location can also be taken into consideration. But with each perk, that likely means the price will



increase.

Tejpar says Canadians usually look for four star accommodations. To help clients, Marlin Travel gives ratings of budget, moderate, superior and luxury

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alongside stars.

Ratings are all over the

They can be awarded by agencies, critics, anonymous online reviews or the hotels themselves.

Hotwire takes an average from other websites and customer feedback.

Expedia lets you filter your searches by amenities such as air conditioning and gyms.

Frommer's, a popular guide book series, makes up its own ratings, from zero to three stars in recommendations.

And competing guide Lonely Planet barely even acknowledges the grades, but suggests you look at the bigger picture.

"As a Lonely Planet author we regularly ignored them," says editor Robert Reid. "As they are so inconsistent country to country, we find they're not the most consistent way of conveying quality. Some [hotels] add an elevator for an extra star, for example, and charge more, but have far less comfortable rooms than a two-floor bed and breakfast walk-up."

If you're looking for some swanky hot spots in warmer regions this winter, Tejpar recommends well-branded hotel chains Bahia Principe, Barcelo and Occidental in Mexico and the Caribbean Islands. And if you want to go above and beyond, then there's the Waldorf Astoria resort in La Quinta, California.

"It has 41 pools and 53 hot spas," laughs Tejpar.

Banking can be this comfortable



AIR CANADA * VACATIONS Deals of the

CUBA

Varadero via Toronto Sirenis La Salina Varadero Beach Resort • 4★

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\$629 +Taxes & other fees (including service charges): \$240

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Feb. 12-Mar. 5 • 1 wk.

rm. \$899 +Taxes & other fees (including service charges): \$222

Holguin

Playa Pesquero • 4 1/2 ★

Standard rm. Feb. 12, 26 & Mar. 5 • 1 wk.

\$1199 +Taxes & other fees (including service charges): \$222

SAINT LUCIA via Toronto

The Village Inn & Spa • 3★

All-Inclusive • Standard rm. Oct. 24 & 31 • 1 wk.

\$939 +Taxes & other fees (including service charges): \$242

COSTA RICA

Liberia via Toronto

Occidental Grand Papagayo • 4 1/2 ★

All-Inclusive • Deluxe rm. Nov. 7 & 28 • 1 wk.

+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): \$220

BAHAMAS

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Cancun/Riviera Maya Gran Bahia Principe Tulum • 5★

All-Inclusive • Standard rm.
Apr. 17 • 1 wk.

+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): \$289

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Punta Cana

Occidental Grand Punta Cana • 4★

All-Inclusive • Junior suite Feb. 26 • 1 wk.

+Taxes & other fees (including service charges): \$308

Grand Bahia Principe Punta Cana • 4 1/2 ★

All-Inclusive Junior suite Feb. 26 • 1 wk.

\$1449 +Taxes & other fees

USA

Orlando via Montreal or Toronto

Clarion Resort & Waterpark • 3 ★ Double guest rm.
Dec. 1, 7 & 8 • 1 wk.

\$599 +Taxes & other fee (including service charges): \$13

CRUISE

Celebrity Cruises² Celebrity SummitSM

Southern Caribbean Cruise Flights to San Juan via Toronto Interior stateroom, cat. 09 Jan. 8 & 15 • 1 wk.

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JAMAICA

Sunset Jamaica Grande Resort & Spa • 4★

All-Inclusive Exclusive, renovated standard rm. Feb. 7, 14, 21 & 28 • 1 wk.

ard rm. \$1299 +Taxes & other fees (including service charges): \$280

PRIVILEGES

Grand Palladium Jamaica Resort & Spa • 4 1/2 ★

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Swimming with lions a roar

▶ Puerto Vallarta Adventures lets you get up close with huge sea lions ▶ These gentle giants are great with humans and beats the heck out of swimming with that boring, old dolphin

THF TRAVELIN' CANADIAN

DARREN PARKMAN



Swimming with Dolphins long been a favourite tourist attraction

Mexico's Pacific along Coast, but how bout doing laps alongside big blubberly sea lions?

Just outside downtown Puerto Vallarta, you can literally get "nose to literally get "nose to whiskers" with these super friendly giants.

For around 75 bucks Canadian, Vallarta Adventures offers a rare chance to get up close and personal with several well-trained

Sure. I'll admit I was a



bit intimidated, in fact downright worried, about splashing around in the same pool with a 1,500 pound hairy creature, but my new friend Cassandra the lion, soon put my mind at ease.

She swam right up, threw a welcoming flipper around my fragile neck, gave me a big hug, and planted a big wet, fishy

kiss on me. Okay, admittedly it was the most affection I'd had in awhile, but I really could have lived without that overpowering tuna breath.

That aside, the whole experience really downright fascinating.

These mammals are darned intelligent, and love to frolick with humans in a fun, and thankfully, non-life-threatening After swimming wav. with. feeding and just hanging out with my new deep-sea friend, I was even ready for the grand finale.

Cassandra got a good head start and suddenly flew out of the water directly over my head, leaving me uncrushed, and a little sad it was all over.

It's a highly recommended once in a lifetime experience.

Hey, when are you going to get kissed by a 15 hundred pound monster named Cassandra again?

What else to do there

Cruise the famous Malecon strip:

P.V. is most famous for this waterfront strip that features great views, shops, and cool atmosphere. Beware, though, prices in this tourist zone are a lot higher than other Mexican tourist destinations. Surprisingly, many of the restaurants here are owned or operated by Americans and Cana-

Deep-Sea Fishing

Some of the best sport fishing in the world can be found off Puerto Vallarta, which after all, was just a tiny fishing port before the tourists started showing up. Several companies offer day long charters in search of Sailfish and Marlin.

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THE HEART OF CUBA

History is Alive in Santa Clara

oing to Cuba is like taking a trip around the world in perfect weather. You can clamber over the ruins of French coffee plantations. Tour Spanish colonial cities dating back to the 16th century. Luxuriate in European-style spas. Swing to Afro-Cuban and Latin rhythms. Hike through spectacular mountains and forests. Dive on one of the world's great reefs. Walk on amazing beaches. And fish where Hemingway fished.

THE CENTRE OF THE ISLAND

Santa Clara is the capital of Villa Clara, one of several provinces located in Cuba's central region. Today a city of about 240,000 people, Santa Clara figured prominently in the overthrow of General Fulgencio Batista by the forces of Fidel Castro in 1958. Batista fled only 12 hours after revolutionary leader Ernesto Che Guevara captured the city, ending the war.

Santa Clara commemorates this period in many ways. The bodies of Guevara and 16 of his troops now rest in the city's Che Guevara Mausoleum, part of a memorial site that includes a large square for parades and rallies, an eternal flame, a nearly 7-m (22-ft) bronze statue of the revolutionary leader, and a museum dedicated to his life.

Not far away is the Armored Train Park-Museum. This attraction is a reminder of one of the pivotal moments in the Battle of Santa Clara, when Guevara and his troops derailed an armoured train filled with enemy combatants and supplies. The cars still stand, as does the bullet-ridden bulldozer used to tear up the track. Tourists can explore them all.

THE CENTRE OF THE CITY

Santa Clara is the centre of Cuba, and Parque Vidal is the centre of Santa Clara. This busy plaza, covering one city block, was planned and built more than 300 years ago along traditional Spanish lines. The space is surrounded monuments architecture in a variety of styles; within, it features cafes and bustling foot traffic. If you visit on a weekend, enjoy the tunes of Santa Clara's municipal orchestra, which plays in the Glorieta (gazebo), erected in 1911.

SURROUNDED BY BEAUTY

Once you've visited the heart of Santa Clara, consider the view from above. Capiro's Hill, a group of three small peaks overlooking the city, provides an exceptional view of Santa Clara—so much so that Che Guevera himself once used it when planning his attack on the train. Like so much of Santa Clara, Capiro's Hill is more than just a beautiful site: It is a place where important things happen. And it is a place you should see for yourself.

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Only a stones throw away

You don't need to have kids to enjoy all Disneyland has to offer • There are activities for all-ages



They say it's the happiest place on earth, and well ...

You don't need to have kids to enjoy all Disneyland has to offer at just a flight away.

From the food and wine to the attractions and games, Downtown Disney and special Aladdin performance, there is a variety of activities and attractions that appeals to adults.

A theme park staple, Aladdin: A Musical Spectacular will be taking its last bow this fall, but with an updated Genie making modern jokes — about Lady Gaga, Twitter and other adult humour — this is

Costs

Admission cost:

- 5-day park Hopper (two days free) Kids - \$154, Adults \$184
- 2-day park Hopper Kids -\$131, Adults \$151
- 1-day park Hopper Kids \$87, Adults - \$97
- 1-day, 1 park Kids \$62, Adults \$72

one show parents won't want to miss, with or without the kids.

'Whether you're one or all the way to 101, there's always something fun for everyone at Disneyland," Marlie Morrison, manag-ing director of Disney Parks Canada said.

With two parks to eniov, the classic Disneyland



and the 10-year old Disney's California Adventure, there is double the fun. The best bet would be to purchase a "park hop-per pass", which ranges in price and number of days. There are three hotel resorts located directly within the parks vicinity for those who want to be right in the action.

As for the rides, while Disney certainly has its fair share of kids rides, adults will enjoy the selection as well from the crazy roller-coaster California Screaming to the Tower of Terror not for the weak of heart. But also the Soaring' Over California ride offers adults a few moments of hang gliding — simulated of course — over California's many incressights. For those incredible enough to remember, check out the Captain EO Tribute paying homage to Michael Jackson, in 3-D. The best part is all of these attractions are included in the admission price.



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What you'll see soon inside the Magic Kingdom

New shows, rides The World of Color spectacular light and water show. opens on June 11. By 2012, the park will have a new entrance and also three new attractions, including what is sure to be a favourite, Cars Land.

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Simple dish, complex flavour

Sauteed chicken with Caramelized Onions

Preparation:

- 1 Cut onions into 6 wedges each. Sprinkle chicken with 1/4 tsp each salt and pepper.
- 2 In large skillet, add 2 tsp margarine and melt over medium-high heat. Sauté chicken until browned, about 3 minutes per side; transfer to plate.
- Reduce heat to medium and melt remaining margarine in skillet. Sauté onions, 1 tbsp sugar, and remaining salt and pepper until onions turn golden brown and caramelize, 8 minutes. Stir frequently, breaking onions apart. Add broth and boil until evaporated, 2 minutes.



Stir in rosemary, thyme, and remaining sugar. Return chicken to skillet and sprinkle with vinegar. Cook, uncovered, until juices of chicken run clear, about 4 minutes. Serves 4

RECIPE COURTESY READERS DIGEST

Ingredients:

- 750 g medium onions
- 4 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves
- Salt to taste
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- 4 tsp margarine
- 2 tbsp superfine sugar
- 1/3 cup reduced-sodium chicken broth
- 1 tsp chopped fresh rose-
- 1 tsp chopped fresh thyme
- 1 tbsp red wine vinegar





Book reflects local food philosophy

To cook like the world's best chef you might try his recipe for snails, which instructs the reader to feed them lettuce for a couple of days, put them in a pan of water, and bring it to a boil, "making sure that the snails don't escape."

It's not your typical cookbook entry. But Rene Redzepi is hardly your typical cook.

At age 32, he is the chef of the moment, ever since his Copenhagen restaurant, Noma, grabbed first place on Restaurant Magazine's list of the world's 50 best restaurants last spring. He stole the spotlight from perennial "it" restaurant el-Bulli in Spain and established with surprising suddenness the supremacy of a movement known as neo-Nordic cuisine.

When Noma opened seven years ago, Danish colleagues mocked Redzepi for his pledge to use indigenous ingredients in a region where very little grows, and where haute cuisine was either French or Italian.

But Redzepi stubbornly resisted, foraging for wild herbs and experimenting with Icelandic cheese and Norwegian razor clams. Yet he felt he was still cooking in a style borrowed from the places he had trained, including elBulli.

Redzepi's culinary epiphany came while he was hunting for muskox in Greenland, the temperature a frigid -48 C. "It was healthy to take time out and think, 'Why I am doing these things?" he said. "Suddenly I could put a word to it, that the main thing people should experience is a sense of time and place."

Now, every dish he cre-

ates is a microcosm of its origins, a little piece of nature on a plate.

Last month, Redzepi released a much-anticipated cookbook, Noma: Time and Place in Nordic Cuisine (Phaidon), with a book tour that took him around the

The book features 200 photos, portraits of farmers, a diary from the early days, and recipes (though the average cook might be overwhelmed by the prospect of tracking down sea buckthorn or chasing snails).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS





Couples needed for research study

We are looking for women (18 - 45 years) experiencing **vulvo-vaginal pain** and their partners (18 years or older) who:

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So you want to be an entrepreneur?

• Opening a small business can be made easier by going franchise route



What do Comfort Keepers, Survivor Bootcamp, Post-Net, Reliable Independent Living Services, Canadian Tire and Cora Breakfast and Lunch all have in common?

They're franchises, which account for 40 per cent of all retail sales in Canada and 10 per cent of the GDP, and employ more than one million Canadians, according to the Canadian Franchise Association (CFA). They attract a diverse group, from former franchise employees and corporate executives, to new immigrants, young entrepreneurs, and women, like Cora Tsouflidou — part of a growing demographic, according to a 2008 national survey commissioned by Gowling Lafleur Henderson

Divorced with three

teenage children to support, Tsouflidou opened her first restaurant in Quebec in 1980. She sold the popular eatery to work at a large establishment where she honed her skills.

In 1987, she debuted Cora Breakfast and Lunch; other locations soon followed. In order to grow her business, build her brand and "teach others her winning recipe," she chose franchising as her business strategy.

The first franchise opened in 1994; today there are more than 115 across the country with annual sales of more than \$125 million. Tsouflidou credits her success to "initiative, perseverance, self-confidence and boundless ener-

What's The Next Big Thina?

Here are two growing

• Senior/Home Care Services: Thirteen percent of the Canadian population is aged 65 and older, and this population expected to double over the next 20 to 25 years, says Arif Abdulla, mar-

keting and PR

care franchise. This is a largely unregulated, competitive industry, says Abdulla, that demands a 24/7

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Business Brokers president Maurice Muise says B2B franchises offer a professional services opportunity. life/work balance and growth market as boomers start retiring.

top franchises

The biggest players in Canada:

- 1. Tim Hortons 2,902 locations; \$50,000 franchise
- 2. Subway Subs of Canada - 2,457 locations; \$15,000 US franchise fee; 2 weeks training
 3. MTY Group (23 different
- brands, including Country Style, Cultures, TCBY, Thai Express and Yogen Früz) -1.538 locations: \$20.000. \$40,000 franchise fee

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FAILURE TO INVESTIGATE COST COMPANY THE CASE



oday, much of the workforce views itself as being bullied or harassed. Often it is for a good reason. However, as harassment is often in the eyes of the beholder, many companies have become complacent, satisfied to

have employees police themselves. As a recent Ontario case illustrates, to do so flirts with a significant lawsuit.

Douglas Disotel was no stranger to Kraft Canada's disciplinary policies. Disotel, a whey dryer operator at Kraft's cheese factory in Ingleside, Ont., had a run in with a manager after he was caught gossiping about the manager's former wife. Disotel disagreed with being disciplined, believing that Kraft sided with his manager in a non-workplace dispute.

Soon afterwards, Disotel's coworkers began razzing him, asking if he was involved in a sexual relationship with his manager and questioning his sexual orientation.

Disotel complained to his supervisor on several occasions, but instead of reporting the conduct to Kraft's human resources department, the supervisor told him that the comments would stop if he didn't react to them.

Fed up with his supervisor's lack of response to his concerns, Disotel retained a lawyer and told his supervisor he was contemplating filing a harassment complaint.

Disotel was told that a complaint could lead to his termination. Believing that Kraft would not fairly investigate the situation, Disotel went on sick leave and never returned. Eventually he sued Kraft, claiming that he had effec-

"It is easier to be critical than correct.'

BENJAMIN DISRAELI

tively been fired.

At a recent trial, the judge sided with Disotel agreeing that he had effectively been fired and criticizing Kraft's handling of the matter. Although Kraft performed an investigation, it fell far short of the standards required for

it to be fair.

Kraft did not interview a number of witnesses and drew conclusions, which led the judge to believe the company was not impartial to Disotel's complaint.

Disotel was awarded one year's severance and his legal costs. The human resources

lessons are clear: No workplace complaint, however trivial, should be ignored by management. Further, although harassment is in the eyes of the beholder, employees should not fear reprisal for raising their concerns. Often, the judge sees it the same

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Sizing up the classroom

Smaller classes are not always cost-effective → Parents should review teaching, learning practices

Smaller classes are popular with parents and teachers; however, because reducing class size is a very expensive undertaking, running into hundreds of millions of dollars each year in a large province, it is important to compare this strategy with other alternatives for improving student outcomes.

Many studies have been done on the impact of class size on teaching practices and on student outcomes. Although this research inevitably contains some conflicting findings, there is a significant agreement on some major points:

more details

 More information on class sizes reduction can be found at cea-ace.ca.

Phone: 464-6666 ext 2590.

• Smaller classes in primary grades have been linked with somewhat better student outcomes, but the evidence is much weaker above the primary level.

- Smaller classes may have the greatest positive impact on students with the greatest educational needs.
- Academic gains for students from smaller classes depend on changes in teaching practices, but smaller classes alone do not necessarily lead to changed teaching. Teachers need ongoing support to implement new approaches for smaller classes.
- Fewer children mean more space for classroom activities and may reduce behavioural management issues.



• Changing class size across a whole system is challenging. Teachers need to change what they do, more teachers are needed, more split grade classes may result (though there is no evidence that split grades are harmful to students) and more classrooms are needed.

Evidence to date suggests that smaller classes across an entire system are probably not the most cost-effective way to improve

student outcomes when compared with, for example, investing the same money in improving teaching skills. However, the fact that both teachers and parents support smaller classes provides another

kind of value.

For parents, it is important to know the size of classes in your school but, even more, to understand the teaching and learning practices being used.

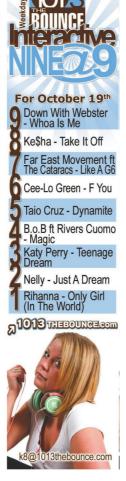
NEWS CANADA

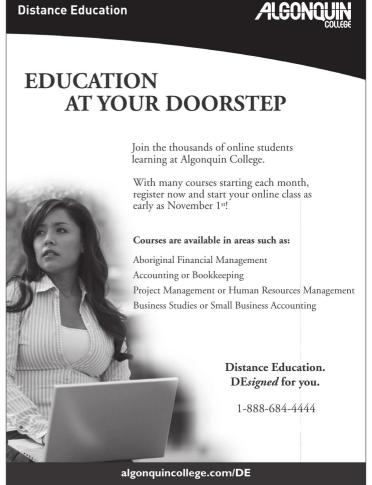


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sports

Quoted

Smith off to winning start

Game ends dramatically as Mooseheads score winner with 3.8 seconds left in regulation • Halifax delivers strong effort against talented Titan





"I was nervous

SMITH ON HIS COACHING

DEBUT WITH THE CLUB LAST

PHILIP CROUCHER

Bobby Smith got more than just a win in his Halifax Mooseheads coaching debut last night.

A nice memento came

his way, also.
"I'll take it," the club's majority owner and now head coach said after receiving the game puck from club captain Travis Randall, after Halifax's exciting 3-2 win over the Bathurst Titan before a season-low crowd of 4,021.

Smith, who a day earlier shook up Moose Country by letting go Cam Russell as head coach and naming himself as the replacement, saw his team deliver a flare for the dramatic in debut behind the bench.

Just as Halifax killed off a late-game Titan power play without surrendering a shot on goal, sniper Martin Frk stepped out of the penalty box after serving an ill-advised roughing minor, took the puck and found a pinching Konrad Abeltshauser.

And the 18-year-old blue-liner made no mis-take, firing a perfect shot glove side past Titan netminder Olivier Roy.

"At first we were just trying to keep the game tied and into overtime," Abeltshauser said about his first goal this season.

"Then we get this opportunity and make the most of

Smith was pleased with how his team performed overall as Halifax had good jump most of the night. Frk and Andrew Ryan had the other Herd goals.

Still, next time, maybe don't make things stressful on your boss.

"A 5-1 win with a boring third period would've been fine, too," Smith said, grinning.

Dangerous suspension

The NFL imposed huge fines yesterday on three players for dangerous and flagrant hits last weekend and warned that, starting with this week's games, violent conduct will be cause for suspension.

Pittsburgh Steelers line-backer James Harrison was docked \$75,000 US yesterday, while New England Patriots safety Brandon Meriweather and Atlanta Falcons cornerback Dunta Robinson will lose \$50,000

In the past, players were either fined or ejected for illegal hits. However, after the series of recent flagrant tackles, several of which resulted in concussions, the NFL ramped up the punish-

Football operations chief Ray Anderson indicated the suspensions could start immediately - that is, involving play from last weekend's games. However, NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said the league wanted to give teams fair warning and would send a memo today, outlining the changes.

Ravens tight end Todd Heap took a vicious hit from Meriweather that Heap called "one of those hits that shouldn't happen." Robinson and the Eagles' DeSean Jackson were knocked out of their game after a frightening collision in which Robinson launched himself head first to make a tackle. Both sustained concussions.

NFL Players Association executive director DeMaurice Smith wouldn't directly answer whether the league had consulted with the union before toughening up the penalties, saying simply that he talked to Commissioner Roger Goodell every day.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Cain shuts down Phillies offence

Cody Ross a factor again as San Francisco takes 2-1 edge in NLCS



Cody Ross came through with another key hit this post-season, Matt Cain dazzled to outduel Cole Hamels and the San Fran-cisco Giants beat the Philadelphia Phillies 3-0

yesterday to take a 2-1 lead in the NL championship series. Ross hit an RBI single in

the fourth inning to break a scoreless tie and fellow playoff first-timer Aubrey Huff followed with a run-

scoring single.

The Giants grabbed the edge in their best-of-seven series against the two-time defending NL champions with two more games in their home ballpark.

On a beautiful and festive fall day in the Bay Area, the Giants delivered back home in front of 43,320 towel-waving fans at AT&T Park.

Among those in the sellout crowd — home run king Barry Bonds in a

Game 4

Phillies manager Charlie Manuel was considering going back to Roy Halladay on short rest for Game 4 tonight if his team trailed, though Joe Blanton was penciled in for the start (8:30 p.m. AT). Rookie Madison Bumgarner, who pitched the division series clincher at Atlanta, goes for the Giants

front-row seat near San Francisco's dugout.

Giants manager Bruce Bochy tweaked his lineup, and it worked.

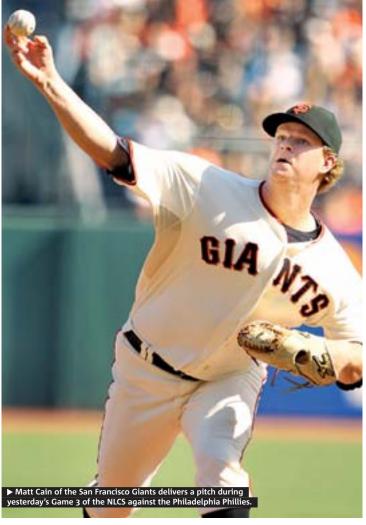
Aaron Rowand earned a start in centre field, then doubled and scored on Freddy Sanchez's fifth-inning single.

This marked the third impressive pitcher's duel in as many games of this

First, it was Roy Halladay versus Tim Lincecum, then Roy Oswalt and Jonathan Sanchez.

Cain allowed two hits over seven innings, struck out five and walked three in a strong 119-pitch ef-

Javier Lopez pitched the eighth and Brian Wilson finished it for his fourth post-season save and second in as many tries this series.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Madrid bests Milan

Real Madrid passed an early test of its Champions League credentials under Jose Mourinho by defeating AC Milan, while Chelsea, Arsenal and Bayern Munich also notched up their third successive victories vesterday to close in on the knockout phase.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored from a free kick then set up Mesut Oezil's goal inside 15 minutes as nine-time winner Madrid asserted its authority in Group G over seven-time champion Milan with a 2-0 win in a showdown of the competition's two most successful clubs.

Arsenal celebrated the night's biggest win by routing Shakhtar Donetsk 5-1 and Premier League rival Chelsea beat Spartak Moscow 2-0.

Bayern Munich, which lost last season's final, found it tougher against Cluj, coming from behind to win 3-2 in Group E, which also saw AS Roma stunned 3-1 at home by Basel.

Another convincing win for Madrid has heightened expectations at Santiago Bernabeu that Mourinho, who led Inter to the Champions League title in May, can not only take his new team beyond the last-16 for the first time since 2004, but deliver its 10th victory in the competition nine vears after the last.

Madrid blitzed Milan's goal with 22 shots — but the goals came early, starting in the 13th minute with Ronaldo's free kick flying through a gap in the defensive wall. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Manager search moves on for Jays

◆ Thomson, Martinez and Fasano among candidates Blue Jays eliminate from list for new manager

The Toronto Blue Jays have started paring down their list of managerial candidates, with Rob Thomson and Dave Martinez among those told they are out of the running.

Internal applicants Luis Rivera, the manager at double-A New Hampshire, and Sal Fasano, manager of single-A Lansing, have also been eliminated from the search, according to multiple sources with knowledge of the process.

Thomson, the New York Yankees third base coach from Sarnia, Ont., and Martinez, the former Montreal Expo and Blue Jay who is now the Tampa Bay Rays bench coach, were both considered strong potential contenders for the post.

Still very much in the running are Boston Red Sox bench coach DeMarlo Hale and Cleveland Indians first base coach Sandy

Alomar interview

- Indians coach Sandy Alomar Jr. has interviewed for the manager's job in Toronto, a person familiar with the situation tells The Associated Press.
- Alomar, the older brother of former Blue Jays second baseman Roberto Alomar, met yesterday in Toronto with Jays officials, according to the person who spoke on condition of anonymity because the interview had not been made public by the teams.

 THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Alomar Jr., the sources said.

The status of Red Sox pitching coach John Farrell, Los Angeles Angels bench coach Ron Roenicke, San Diego Padres first base coach Rick Renteria, Philadelphia Phillies bench coach Pete Mackanin, Blue Jays third base coach Brian Butterfield and bench coach Nick Leyva is less clear.

Still, the fact that some candidates are already being eliminated from the process indicates that general manager Alex Anthopoulos is making some headway in his exhaustive search for the retired Cito Gaston's replacement.

The Blue Jays have been aiming to have a new manager in place shortly after the World Series ends so they can close the book on their thorough process and focus on off-season business.

Anthopoulos and his staff have been, in the words of the GM after the season ended, "consumed" by the search, engaging in multiple conversations with prospective candidates and conducting comprehensive background checks. THE CANADIAN PRESS



Bruins keep Ovie off the board

David Krejci and Milan Lucic each had a goal and an assist in the first period, and the Boston Bruins snapped the Washington Capitals' four-game winning streak with a 3-1 victory yesterday night.

Matt Hunwick added a goal, and Tim Thomas made 35 saves to improve to 3-0 for the Bruins, who held Alex Ovechkin without a point for the first time in the young season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



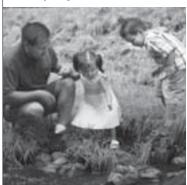
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Denise Peterson-Rafuse Minister of Community Services



Community Services





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Favre has met with NFL official, ESPN reports

Brett Favre has spoken with an NFL security official about text messages and lewd photos he allegedly sent to a New York Jets employee two years ago when he played for the team, ESPN reported.

The network, citing unidentified sources and without providing further details, said yesterday afternoon that Favre and NFL vice-president for security Milt Ahlerich finished their meeting.

meeting.
Commissioner Roger
Goodell said previously the
Vikings quarterback would
meet this week with a
league official about the below-the-waist photos he allegedly sent to Jenn
Sterger, now a TV personality with the Versus
network. The Deadspin
website reported the story
about the married quarterback's alleged behaviour toward Sterger, who has not
commented on the report.

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello declined to confirm the meeting took place. Favre's agent Bus Cook did not return messages.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

O Subaru adds more oomph to the WRX while keeping up excellent handling O A sportier take on the standard family ride • Subaru blurs line between STi and standard WRX



Subaru's WRX revsup family sedan market



For 2011, Subaru has given its sporty WRX a visual and dynamic shot in the arm, bringing it closer in line with its bigger bro, the 305 hp WRX STi.

Since getting bumped to 265 hp in 2009, the allwheel-drive WRX has been nothing short of an understated rocket, but its underpinnings have erred on the soft side. Now both four-door sedan (\$32,495) and five-door hatch (\$33,395) get the STi's wide-body treatment. This goes a long way in kicking the WRX up a few rungs on the look-at-me ladder. About the only people not thrilled with this would be current STi owners — just ask my friend Steve.

A wider track for both front and rear wheels helps fill the bulging haunches as do wider 17-



inch performance tires up from 225 mm to 235 mm. Factor in stiffer rear subframe bushings and the 2011 WRX is a sharper road tool. The chassis responds quickly to inputs from the nicely weighted steering, there is less body roll than before yet the

ride remains compliant. The symmetrical all-wheeldrive is set to a 50:50 front to rear split — Subaru saves the fancy adjustable

bias for the STi.
The WRX comes only as a five-speed manual. Purists rejoice. It's a good one too, featuring positive

shifts and progressive clutch take up. Yes, a six-speed would be nice (again, saved for the STi) but this flat-four has a pretty broad torque spectrum (244 lb.-ft. at 4000 so you're rarely r.p.m.) caught flat footed. Fans of Subaru's off-beat exhaust

growl will be happy as this audio signature is front and centre when the Nike hits the firewall. And with a zero-100 km/h time of 5.4 seconds, this puppy flies.

The 2011 WRX gets revised interior trim, stanwith dard Bluetooth steering wheel controls. USB media interface, freshened gauge cluster, new 17-inch wheels, one touch up/down driver's window and quad tailpipes. My tester featured the \$3000 Limited Package that adds leather, fog lights, power sunroof and Sirius satellite radio with a 3-month subscription.

In this time of the homogenized family sedan, the 2011 Subaru WRX makes for an intriguing option. Well priced, comfortable, quite roomy and hugely entertaining, this all-wheel-drive comes fully equipped with buckets of character.







It's already exciting enough imagining the Audi A1 on the road, but you could be driving an electric version in the next

few years.
Audi is testing 20 prototypes of an all-electric Audi A1 with a top speed of 81mph, on the roads of Munich by mid-2011 and 200 powering stations delivering "green electricity" will be built.

It won't be the first Audi EV into production, that will be the sports car concept first shown at the 2009 Frankfurt Show, set for a late-2012 launch. METRO



HYBRIDS: LOOKING FOR A FEW MORE BUYERS



ybrids have arrived, yes?
Well, me thinks "yes" and "no."
Hybrid technology has certainly arrived.

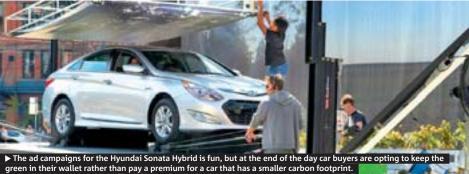
They have proven to be more reliable and durable than originally perceived.

And the technology keeps getting better. Consider the just-introduced 2011 Hyundai Sonata Hybrid, which flaunts the world's first automotive application of a lithium polymer battery pack (developed with its battery

partner, and fellow Korean company, LG Chem). Their advantages over

Their advantages over the nickel metal hydride battery packs in other midsize hybrids are many: more efficient; more compact; lighter; better cooling properties (requiring only air cooling system, instead of heavier liquid cooling).

Unlike nickel metal hydride cells, or even lithium ion cells used in computers, which are cylindrical in shape, lithium polymer cells have a flat rectangle shape like a thin stack of paper. Seventy two of



these rectangle cells are wired in series to produce a 1.4 kilowatthour battery back weighing less than 100 pounds.

And I'm sure you've seen the advertising campaign for the Sonata Hybrid, which is on current and heavy rotation on television.

It makes much of the fact that the commercial was made with a "zero carbon footprint."

The Sonata Hybrid doesn't arrive in Canada until January — still a few months away.

How many of these technology and fuel-efficient wonders does Hyundai expect to sell each in 2011, and every year after that? About 300 to 500.

That seems like a small number, eh? But it corresponds to how hybrids variants currently fare in the overall midsize segment.

Currently Camry, Fusion, Malibu, and Altima, are all available with hy-

brid versions, where they comprise only three per cent of overall midsize sales. (Four-cylinder midsizers dominate with a 71 per cent share, while sixcylinder midsizers account for the remaining 26 per cent).

The line on why they

The line on why they remain a niche product is that fuel prices are too low — that the rationale for purchase is based solely on calculations on how a hybrid's higher initial costs will be offset by its lower fuel costs over

the ownership period.
What this says to me is that buyers will always pay a premium for style, power, luxury, brand, etc., but not, apparently, for the ability make a smaller carbon footprint. At least not yet.

Also at work, I think, are fears about any vehicle with an expensive-to-replace battery.

replace battery.
Whatever the case, hybrids are still lurking in that middle ground, between "glad to meet you" and "let's do lunch."

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Suzuki is a small brand that's huge on fun, recreation and creating some of the most popular machines in the enthusiast off-road community. With a product portfolio including cars, 4x4's and an arsenal of recreational vehicles, the Japanese brand has earned a loyal following of repeat shoppers.

The Suzuki XL7 was a family-ready 4x4 model that offered reasonable pricing and a rarity in the family SUV marketplace: real-world off-road prowess. Packed with a transfer-case 4x4 system, low-range gearing and a tough body-on-frame construction, it was ideal for shoppers after top levels of confidence on the road less travelled. Many of XL7's owners say it impressed as an all-around performer that's happy to tow a boat or tackle a trail.

Under the hood, look for

The specs

- MODEL 2001 to 2006 Suzuki XI 7
- ➤ VEHICLE TYPE 4x4 SUV APPROXIMATE USED PRICE RANGE \$4,000 to \$12,000

a 2.7-liter V6 engine with 170 to 185 horsepower, depending on the year in question. Earlier models in the 2001 to 2006 generation got a five-speed manual transmission as standard, while a four or five-speed automatic was otherwise available or standard depending on the year.

What owners like

Overall value, pricing, the manual-shift transfer case, the availability of a manual transmission and seven-passenger seating were some of the most common praise-points from existing XL7owners. Ride quality, interior comfort, visibility and all-surface traction were highly rated by owners, too.

What owners hate

Common gripes are relatively scarce, and centre around awkward place-

ment of some interior controls and the lack of a rear window release to open it separately of the tailgate. Finally, as with virtually any SUV, most drivers wish for better mileage.

Common issues

Have the underside inspected for signs of excessive rust, scraping, dents or other damaged caused by careless off-roading. A thorough underbody inspection by a mechanic can also quickly reveal issues with chassis or suspension components, as well as fluid leaks that could indicate larger problems. Ensure the four-wheel drive transfer case system can engage and disengage all 4x4 modes as expected, too.

Use a flashlight to inspect for signs of oil leaking down the front or side of the engine. This may indicate a variety of gasket-related problems that could be pricey to fix.

The verdict

End of the day, an affordable used XL7 that passes all pre-purchase inspections should deliver high-capability, high-value and worry-free travels for years to come.

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Crossword

- 1 Mid-June honoree 4 Mid-May honoree
- 7 Took the trolley
- 8 Was concerned
- 10 Hawkeye
- 11 Sports venues
- 13 1- and 4-Across. usuallv
- 16 Snoop
- 17 All but one in a million?

īψ,

- 18 Favorite
- 19 Take out of context?
- 20 Entreaty
- 21 Prudent
- 23 Armada
- 25 PBS science show 26 Tea time, perhaps
- 27 Lawyers' org.
- 28 Throw
- 30 Winter ailment
- 33 13-Across, initially 36 Graduates
- 37 Man of morals?
- 38 Hits hard
- 39 Heart of the mat-
- 40 Before 41 Away from WSW

Down

- 1 Bride's bounty
- 2 Hebrew month 3 Inhabitant
- 4 Polo
- 5 Sandwich treats
- 6 Carte
- 7 Bellow
- 8 Band of fighters
- 9 Spotted horse
- 12 Winter forecast
- 10 Mischief-maker
- 14 Slithery 15 Greek vowel 19 Modern-day evi-

22

...

- dence
- 20 Apiece 21 Deadly snake
- 22 Makes use (of)
- 24 Suitcases
- 25 Apprehend
- 28 Lea bone

- 23 Lovina
- 26 The end
- 29 "Blue Sky" Oscar

winner Jessica 30 "Cabaret" director

45

Bob 31 Swaq

:s

- 32 Ref
- 34 "Psych" actor Hill 35 Check

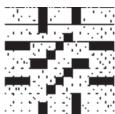
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10

➤ Yesterday's answe

J



For today's crossword answers and for

Sudoku

							1
		2		6			9
	1	7	3	8	2		
7		8		3		1	
4						9	
3		1		5		7	
	9	4	2	1	8		
		5		9			4
							5
	4	7 4 3	1 7 7 8 4	1 7 3 7 8 8 4	1 7 3 8 7 8 3 4 4 5 3 1 5 9 4 2 1	1 7 3 8 2 7 8 3 4 3 1 5 9 4 2 1 8	1 7 3 8 2 7 8 3 1 4 9 9 3 1 5 7 9 4 2 1 8

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

3	7	4	8	2	9	6	5	1
2	9	5	7	1	6	8	4	3
8	1	6	3	5	4	7	9	2
7	2	3	9	4	1	5	8	6
5	8	9	6	3	7	2	1	4
4	6	1	2	8	5	9	3	7
9	4	8	1	7	2	3	6	5
6	5	7	4	9	3	1	2	8
1	3	2	5	6	8	4	7	9

Send a KISS

Show some love! Send a note to somebody special at kiss@metronews.ca

My dearest Kranberry, you are my life and I don't know how I could ever live without you. We share so many interests, from dodge ball, snowboarding and martial arts to our love of great literature. I couldn't ask for a better mate! Enjoy your morning Sudoku puzzle my love, I hope you see this! Yours always, K

Happy Anniver. booboo! We have been through so much in the last 2 vrs. U r mv love, my world, my air, my soul n my heart n every sec that we r apart I am not complete. Ur the one I promise u n I hope to spend mv whole life with u celebrating the 13 always. LOVE YOU DOSHI

To my Jbear. Hope you'll be able to see this. Never stop smiling and I hope to have many great memeries with you :) Your the best.







Today's horoscope

T Aries March 21-April 20 Do whatever it takes to stay positive, even though your sixth sense is telling you something is not right. Your instincts are not infallible and this time they are way off course.

¥ Taurus April 21-May 21 A relationship that no longer brings you anything in the way of emotional or physical satisfaction is taking up far too much of your time and energy. So end it. Sometimes you have to be ruthless.

II Gemini May 22-June 21

Some people can be extraordinarily annoying, especially when they change their minds. When traveling or socializing make your own plans and not rely on friends or family.

Gancer June 22-July 22 You may want to give up on some-thing that is more difficult than you anticipated but if you do you will hate yourself. What's a bit of pain when the rewards are so great?

Ω Leo July 23-Aug.23 Is someone trying to avoid you? Maybe, but there is no need to get paranoid about it because the issue isn't about you. They just need some time to themselves so they can get their head around recent changes.

MP Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 At some stage today you will begin to wonder if you have bitten off more than you can chew. It's quite possible you have but it's also too late to do anything about it.

expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca **Libra** Sept. 23-0ct. 23 Don't

worry if a long-term project seems to have stalled. The fact that it is long-term means you'll have plenty of time to come back to it later. Give vourself a short-term break.

M Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22

Mercury, planet of the mind, moves into your sign today, giving you a 'clearer vision of the kind of person you want to be and the kind of goals you want to be aiming for.

Nov. 23-Dec. 21 Someone you love is oddly unresponsive at the moment - whatever you say or do to spark their interest just doesn't seem to be working. Stop trying so hard and take

り Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20

In recent weeks you succeeded by being assertive, even aggressive, but now you must be more co-operative. Get together with like-minded people and create something extraordinary.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 No matter how much you may have done for someone in the past you cannot go on doing the same things forever. Make sure they know your assistance has a time limit on it.

H Pisces Feb. 19-March 20 Mercury moves into one of the more insightful areas of your chart today and you will begin to notice connections that were not so obvious before. SALLY BROMPTON



You WIN! write it! Write a funny cap

tion for the image to the right and send it to play@metronews.ca the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro



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